

Maple Square
630 South Carolina Avenue, S. E.
Washington, D. C.

HABS No. 10-5

HABS
DC
WASH,
14-

Photographs
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 10

Historic American Buildings Survey
Major H. Brooks Price, District Officer
1316 New Hampshire Avenue, Washington, D. C.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

HABS
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MAPLE SQUARE 1
630 South Carolina Avenue
Southeast
Washington, District of
Columbia

Owner: Mrs. Briggs. (sold 1937)

Date of Erection: 1796.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two, and basement under part of house.

Materials of Construction: Brick.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.

¹ Also called Duncanson House (see index card).

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MAPLE SQUARE

630 South Car. Ave., S. E.

When George Washington with his architect-engineer, Major l'Enfant, was planning the Capitol of the young republic, the site of "Maple square" was occupied by a pioneer log cabin. At this time, 1796, William M. Duncanson, a wealthy tobacco planter bought a large tract of land including the old log cabin in its maple grove, and built the original portion of the present house, also the interesting out-buildings and slave quarters.

In 1815, Frances Scott Key, author of the "Star Spangled Banner", bought "Maple square" and became its first owner of historical distinction. The house was the center of social life of the neighborhood, and the scene of many lavish entertainments. The property changed owners rapidly. In 1846 it belonged to Captain A. A. Nicolson of the United States Navy; in 1858, to Senator John M. Clayton of New Jersey, who built the ball room on the east and had it decorated by ^{Brugna di} Bromede, the Italian artist who painted the frieze in the rotunda of the Capitol.

The place finally came into the possession of Mrs. Emily Edson Briggs, an author of no small fame, writing under the pen name of "Olivia" during the civil war period, who still lives in this delightful old aristocrat of ancient buildings of the Capital City.

Author: Major H. Brooks Price, District Officer

By *Wm. M. Ritterhouse*

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.

The Maples (William Duncanson House;
Maple Square; Friendship House)
630 South Carolina Avenue, SE,
entrance now at 619 D Street, SE
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-10-5

HABS
DC,
WASH.,
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Addendum to

Maple Square
630 South Carolina Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C.

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) The Maples <u>ADDENDUM</u>		HABS NO. DC-10-5
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE William Duncanson House; Maple Square; Friendship House		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 630 South Carolina Avenue, SE, entrance now at 619 D Street, SE		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1795-1796	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) William Lovering	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Interesting Georgian design. Owned by several prominent individuals, including Francis Scott Key, Senator John M. Clayton (former secretary of state), and author Emily Briggs. Location since 1936 of the District's oldest settlement house, Friendship House.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Georgian		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) brick		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Main block 37' (5-bay) by 32'; 2-story; gable roof; slightly projecting 3-bay pavilion		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Pavilion pedimented; bull's eye window in pediment		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Central hall plan		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Enlarged and altered with addition of ballroom by Sen. John M. Clayton in 1856 (Ballroom decorated by Brumidi). Further enlarged and marble mantels added after 1871 by owner Emily Briggs. Completely renovated for institutional use after 1936 by architect CONTINUED		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Schwartz, Nancy B. <u>Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974.</u> Listed on National Register of Historic Places Category II District of Columbia Landmark		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, HABS		DATE 7/12/83

THE MAPLES (WILLIAM DUNCANSON
HOUSE: MAPLE SQUARE: FRIEND-
SHIP HOUSE)
HABS No. DC-10-5 (PAGE 2)
Architectural Data Form

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES (CONTINUED)

Horace Peaslee. Ballroom replaced by side wing, former outbuildings renovated and joined to main house.